

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/543,962

Examiner

MAIKHANH NGUYEN

Applicant(s)

SHANAHAN ET AL.

Art Unit

2176

– The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address–

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Appeal Brief filed 04/08/2009 and the telephonic interview on 02/10/2010.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9, 12-25, 28-34, and 37 (now renumbered as 1-31).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying Indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date ____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 20100211.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other ____.

/Laurie Ries/
Primary Examiner
Technology Center 2100
13 February 2010

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT & REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

I. EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT:

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ms. Jeannette M. Walder (Reg. No. 30,698) on 02/10/2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A document-based system for acquiring information pertaining to a document, comprising:

a computer having a memory storing a meta-document including the document, the document including content information, and a set of pre-packaged document service requests based on a personality associated with the document, wherein a personality comprises a theme or context, wherein a document service comprises a process for using a portion of the document's content information as a starting point to obtain other information from a service provider pertaining to the document's content information, wherein associating a set of document service requests based on a different personality to the document content information will provide different results; and

a scheduler for autonomously activating and managing the document service requests without user intervention by periodically polling the meta-document for document service requests, for selecting a document service request from the set of document service requests, for initiating and managing communication with a selected service provider to satisfy the selected document service request and for integrating any results from the selected document service request into the meta-document, wherein the meta-document includes the document content, the set of document service requests and integrated results;

wherein set of document services follow a pre-determined sequence of calls to service providers for extracting information from other documents, databases and data stores, and for searching for other information responsive to any extracted information from the other documents, databases and data stores; and

wherein the pre-determined sequence of calls to service providers are satisfiable asynchronously.

2. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the personality is one of Tech Watch, Scientific, Patent Attorney, Fiction Reader, Trial Lawyer, Generic.
3. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the results from the selected document service include a new document service request associated with the document.
4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the document services are satisfied by a third-party service provider via an Internet protocol.
5. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the scheduler updates the set of document service requests on a predetermined schedule.
6. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the scheduler re-initiates selected document service request on a periodic basis.
7. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein the periodic basis is determined by the selected document service request.
8. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the meta-document, the scheduler

and the service providers reside at the same location.

9. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the meta-document, the scheduler and the service providers reside at different locations.

10. -11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the document and the set of document service requests are user-selectable.

13. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein, in addition to the scheduler, a user may select a document service request from the set and initiate and manage communication with a service provider to satisfy the selected document service.

14. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a list of document service requests from which the set of document service requests may be selected by a user.

15. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the service provider is user-selectable.

16. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein a service provider can register additional document services to the list.

17. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a list of service providers available for satisfying document services.

18. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the set of document service requests associated with the document are associated using metadata.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented document-centric method for acquiring information pertaining to a document, comprising:

creating a meta-document comprising providing the document, the document including content information, associating a set of pre-packaged document service requests based on a personality with the document, wherein a personality comprises a theme or context, wherein a document service comprises a process for using a portion of the document's content information as a starting point to obtain other information from a service provider pertaining to the document's content information, wherein associating a set of document service requests based on a different personality to the document content information will provide different results; and

autonomously activating and managing the document service requests without user intervention, comprising:

periodically polling the meta-document for document service requests;

selecting a document service request from the set;

initiating and managing communication with the service provider to satisfy the selected document service request; and

integrating any results from the selected document service request into the meta-document, wherein the meta-document includes the document, the set of document service requests and integrated results;

wherein the set of document services follow a pre-determined sequence of calls to service providers for extracting information from other documents, databases and data stores, and for searching for other information responsive to any extracted information from the other documents, databases and data stores; and

wherein the pre-determined sequence of calls to service providers are satisfiable asynchronously.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the personality is one of Tech Watch, Scientific, Patent Attorney, Fiction Reader, Trial Lawyer, Generic.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the results from the selected document service include a new document service request associated with the document.

22. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the document services are satisfied by a third-party service provider via an Internet protocol.
23. (Original) The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of updating the set of document service requests on a predetermined schedule.
24. (Original) The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of re-initiating selected document service requests on a periodic basis.
25. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the periodic basis is determined by the selected document service request.
26. -27. (Canceled)
28. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a meta-document, comprising:
- a document including content information;
 - a set of pre-packaged document service requests based on a personality, associated with the document, wherein a personality comprises a theme or context, wherein a document service comprises a process for using a portion of the document's content information as a starting point to obtain other information from a service provider pertaining to the document's content information, wherein associating a set of document

service requests based on a different personality to the document content information will provide different results; and

wherein, responsive to an autonomous scheduler that periodically polls the meta-document for document service requests, a document service request is selected from the set, and communication with a selected service provider to satisfy the selected document service request is initiated and managed; [[and]]

wherein, responsive to the autonomous scheduler, any results from the selected document service request are integrated into the meta-document, wherein the meta-document includes the document, the set of document service requests and integrated results;

wherein set of document services follow a pre-determined sequence of calls to service providers for extracting information from other documents, databases and data stores, and for searching for other information responsive to any extracted information from the other documents, databases and data stores; and

wherein the pre-determined sequence of calls to service providers are satisfiable asynchronously.

29. (Previously Presented) The meta-document of claim 28, wherein the personality is one of Tech Watch, Scientific, Patent Attorney, Fiction Reader, Trial Lawyer, Generic.

30. (Original) The meta-document of claim 28, wherein the results from the selected document service includes a new document service request associated with the document.

31. (Original) The meta-document of claim 28, wherein the document services are satisfied by a third-party service provider via an Internet protocol.
32. (Original) The meta-document of claim 28, wherein the scheduler updates the set of document service requests on a predetermined schedule.
33. (Original) The meta-document of claim 28, wherein the scheduler re-initiates selected document service request on a periodic basis.
34. (Original) The meta-document of claim 33, wherein the periodic basis is determined by the selected document service request.
35. – 36. (Canceled)
37. (Original) The meta-document of claim 28, wherein the set of document service requests associated with the document are associated using metadata.

II. REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE:

Claims 1-9, 12-25, 28-34, and 37 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Interpreting the claims in light of the specification, Examiner finds the claimed invention is patentably distinct from the prior art of record.

The prior art does not expressly teach or render obvious the invention as recited in independent Claims 1, 19, and 28.

The features as recited in independent Claims 1, 19, and 28: *"periodically polling the meta-document for document service requests, for selecting a document service request from the set of document service requests, for initiating and managing communication with a selected service provider to satisfy the selected document service request and for integrating any results from the selected document service request into the meta-document, wherein the meta-document includes the document content, the set of document service requests and integrated results; wherein set of document services follow a pre-determined sequence of calls to service providers for extracting information from other documents, databases and data stores, and for searching for other information responsive to any extracted information from the other documents, databases and data stores; and wherein the pre-determined sequence of calls to service providers are satisfiable asynchronously"* when taken in the context of the Claims as a whole, were not uncovered in the prior art teachings.

The Examiner asserts that the claims overcome the prior art of record when the limitations are read in combination with the respective claimed limitations in their entirety.

Dependent claims are allowed as they depend upon allowable independent claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the Issue Fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact information

- III. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Maikhanh Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272- 4093. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 9:00am – 30 pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doug Hutton can be reached at (571) 272-4137.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Maikhanh Nguyen/
Examiner, Art Unit 2176

/Laurie Ries/
Primary Examiner
Technology Center 2100
13 February 2010